Approved For Release 2009/02/24 : CIA-RDP80-00810A001000630002-9

25X1

CLASSIFICATION SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY East Germany

DATE DISTR. 28 April 1953

SUBJECT Reorganization of the East German Optical Industry

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO.

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

25X1

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

25X1

1. The people's owned VVB Optik, which, in addition to ROW (Rathenower Optische Werke), includes a relatively large number of smaller enterprises of the East German optical industry, is now being dissolved. The staff of VVB Optik Headquarters in Jena have received an order to evacuate headquarters premises by 25 April 1953. Some of the personnel have already been transferred to VEB Carl Zeiss, Jena. 1/

2. When the dissolution of VVB Optik is completed, the East German optical industry will be completely reorganized. The change will also apply to those enterprises which have so far not belonged to VVB Optik but which have been so-called D-Betriebe (enterprises directly under the authority of the Ministry), such as the Zeiss and Schott firms in Jena. The most significant feature of the reorganization is that all enterprises of the optical industry will be administratively affiliated with one leading enterprise, the so-called Leitbetrieb. The Leitbetrieb itself will be under the direct authority of the new Ministry for General Machine Construction, headed by the former chief of the Abus works in Nordhausen, (fnu) Wunderlich. 2/, 3/

3. The reorganization will probably apply to the entire nationalized industry or to most of it. In the case of the optical industry, the Carl Zeiss firm in Jena will be the Leitbetrieb. The following firms have already been affiliated with Zeiss, Jena, which has a total staff of about 17,000. 4/:

a) Saalfeld optical works, with a crew of about 900, producing accessories for photo objectives and telescopes, scheduled to produce in the future completed photo objectives;

b) Weimar optical works, with a crew of about 400, which has recently started to manufacture parts for the Zeiss-produced mobile cinema apparatus (Tonfilmkoffer). Production of this apparatus is scheduled to be transferred entirely to Weimar and to the former Olympia typewriter factory in Erfurt.

c) Dresden-Reick works, with a crew of about 500, an optical work shop;

d) Sebach works (near Ruhla), with a crew of about 100, which is to be assigned the mounting of cinema apparatus;

e) Eisfeld (Werra) works, with a crew of about 100, which is engaged in making milling and turning material for Zeiss.

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

STATE	X	NAVY	X	NSRB		DISTRIBUTION							
ARMY	X	AIR	X	FBI		ORR	Ev	x					

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

25X1

Approved For Release 2009/02/24 : CIA-RDP80-00810A001000630002-9

Approved For Release 2009/02/24 : CIA-RDP80-00810A001000630002-9

25X1

4. As a result of the reorganization, the staffs of the works now affiliated with Zeiss will probably be considerably increased. In addition, the works now under VVB Optik will also be affiliated with Zeiss. The more important of these are ROW-Rathenow, now making cheap optical equipment for mass sale; the Freiberg works (formerly Hildebrand), now making range finders; a factory in Dresden (formerly Heyde), now making circular graduating machines (Kreisteilungsmaschinen).

5. The reason for the reorganization and, at the same time, the increased importance of the Zeiss works is not only the poor performance of the optical industry under VVB administration, but also the intention to free the Jena works from the need to produce a large amount of cheap material for the sake of making money. Under the new administrative order, the Zeiss works, Jena, is scheduled to devote more and more of its capacity to developmental work. This is a direct result of the conversion of East German industry to armaments production. To quote a confidential statement of Heinrich Rau, the Zeiss works is supposed to become a research factory (Forschungsfabrik).

1/ [redacted] Comment. VEB Carl Zeiss, Jena, originally under VVB Optik, has lately been directly under HV Feinmechanik und Optik of the Ministry for Machine Construction. In the latter part of February 1953, it was transferred to the new Ministry for General Machine Construction. 25X1

2/ [redacted] Comment. The long-planned reorganization of the Ministry for Machine Construction came about in January 1953 when it was split into three separate ministries: Heavy Machine Construction under Ziller; Transport and Agricultural Machines under Weinberger, formerly of the Reparations Office; and General Machine Construction under Wunderlich. 25X1

3/ [redacted] Comment: The former director of ABUS Nordhausen was Helmut Wunderlich, not to be confused with Alfred Wunderlich who was State Secretary of the former Ministry of Machine Construction and after the reorganization of the Ministries in January 1953 was reported to be Second Secretary of the Ministry of Heavy Industry under Gerhard Ziller. 25X1

4/ [redacted] Comment. To be increased to 20,000 by 1955. 25X1

Approved For Release 2009/02/24 : CIA-RDP80-00810A001000630002-9